

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph 28 as follows:

[0028] The Figure shows a confocal scanning microscope, depicted merely schematically, that has an optically active component 1. Optically active component 1 deflects a portion of light beam 2 of light source 3 onto a dichroic beam splitter 4. Light that is not deflected by active optical component 1 toward dichroic beam splitter 4 is absorbed by beam trap 5. The light reflected from dichroic beam splitter 4 is deflected with the aid of scanning device 6 and is sent via microscope optical system 7 to specimen 8. The light returning from specimen 8 passes in the opposite direction through microscope optical system 7 and scanning device 6, and passes through dichroic beam splitter 4 toward detector 9. The Figure also illustrates that the present invention may be provided with temperature sensor 14 proximate the optically active component, if desired.